

Message Text

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EUR/RPE - AKATA

EB - WCARMSTRONG

EUR/RPM - EJSTREATOR

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S/S - MR GAMMON

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, ETRD, NATO

SUBJ: NATO AND NORTH ATLANTIC ECONOMIC RELATIONS

REF: USNATO 5425

1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CLARIFICATION THAT ANY INCREASED NATO INVOLVEMENT IN INTRA-ALLIED ECONOMIC RELATIONS SHOULD NOT DUPLICATE THE WORK OF OTHER ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS AND SHOULD RELATE TO NATO'S SECURITY OBJECTIVES. WE AGREE THAT THIS FOCUS SHOULD BE THE ESSENTIAL TOUCHSTONE DETERMINING THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.

2. OUR CONCERN RELATES TO THE DIFFICULTY IN DEFINING AND MAINTAINING THIS CLEAR RELATIONSHIP WITH SECURITY OBJECTIVES. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR AN ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL STAFF TO CON-STRUE ECONOMIC MATTERS SO BROADLY THAT THE SECURITY FOCUS IS BLURRED, BASED FOR EXAMPLE ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT ECO-CONFIDENTIAL

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NOMIC STABILITY UNDERLIES POLITICAL STABILITY WHICH IN TURN UNDERLIES SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. THERE ARE REAL RISKS AND DISADVANTAGES IN SEEING THE ECONOMIC MANDATE LOOSELY DEFINED.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED MEDITERRANEAN STUDY, THE MISSION MAY RECALL THAT IN EARLY 1960'S NATO CONSIDERATION OF THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO LED TO INCREASED PRESSURES FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR GREECE AND TURKEY RESULTING IN NATO WISE- MAN'S STUDY ON BOTH COUNTRIES' ECONOMIC NEEDS.

THIS IN TURN LED TO THE FORMATION OF CONSORTIA FOR BOTH COUNTRIES IN BOTH NATO AND THE OECD. GREEK CONSORTIUM WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED FOR POLITICAL REASONS AT THE TIME BECAUSE OF GREEK-TURKISH RIVALRY NEVER FUNCTIONED AND PROVED TIME-CONSUMING AND TROUBLESOME. THE PROPOSED STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES NOT ONLY RISKS A REVIVAL OF SUCH PRESSURES, BUT ALSO RUNS THE DANGER OF MAKING THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE A FORUM FOR A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE BETWEEN THE US AND EC MEMBERS ON EC MEDITERRANEAN POLICY, WHICH WE APPEAR TO BE WORKING OUT IN US-EC BILATERAL CHANNEL. FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE ALLIANCE, IT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE TO KEEP DEBATES ABOUT THE COMMUNITY'S MEDITERRANEAN POLICY (I.E. THE ISSUE OF TRADE PREFERENCES) IN OTHER FORA, RATHER THAN INTRODUCING SUCH A BONE OF CONTENTION INTO NATO. NOR WOULD SUCH A DISCUSSION CONSTRUCTIVELY SERVE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE EC.

4. THE TOPIC OF RAW MATERIAL SCARCITY PROPOSED BY THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE IS ONE ABOUT WHICH WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER CLARIFICATION. PETROLEUM IS OF COURSE AN OBVIOUS EXAMPLE OF SUCH RAW MATERIALS, AND IS APPROPRIATE FOR NATO CONSIDERATION (STATE 224425). WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING THE RESULTS OF THE NAC DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT AND TO THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE'S PREPARATORY PAPER. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT OTHER RAW MATERIALS THE DIRECTORATE HAS IN MIND FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. IN WHAT TIME FRAME IS SCARCITY FORESEEN? DOES THE DIRECTORATE HAVE IN MIND RATHER EXOTIC MATERIALS WITH SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS TO SECURITY EQUIPMENT OR ARE THEY THINKING MORE GENERALLY OF A CLUB OF ROME TYPE OF ANALYSIS THAT THE WORLD WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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OUTSTRIPPING ITS RESOURCES IN A FEW DECADES?

5. IN SHORT, WE WOULD PREFER TO SEE THE MEDITERRANEAN STUDY NOT UNDERTAKEN AND WE NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED RAW MATERIALS STUDY. IN GENERAL, WE AGREE THAT THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON INTRA-WESTERN ISSUES SHUOLD BE GUIDED BY THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A CLEAR PRECISELY DEFINED RELATIONSHIP TO NATO'S SECURITY OBJECTIVES, AND THAT DUPLICATION SHOULD BE AVOIDED WITH THE WORK OF OTHER ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS. IN ADDITION, WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL TO AVOID INTRODUCING CONTENTIOUS ISSUES UNNECESSARILY INTO NATO OR TO COMPLICATE THE HANDLING OF ISSUES BEING TREATED ELSEWHERE. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. SARROS, S/S-O.

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